

**NOAA CIO Council Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
November 29, 2001**

**Attendees:**

Tom Pyke	Robert Kidwell
Bill Turnbull (Chair)	Gary Falk
Karen Dacres, NOAA/OGC	Sue Kennedy
Sylvia Graff (for Robert Mairs)	Joe Smith
Jim Sargent (for Larry Tyminski)	Lillian Barnes
Nancy Huang	Ira Grossman
Hugh Johnson	Tom Murphy
Greg Bass	Fred Walton
Sarah Maloney	Jerry Jansen
Carl Staton	Carla Steinborn
John Villemarette	

**Action Items**

1. All CIOs – Discuss the importance of supporting the NOC, MOC, Security, and ITC corporate cost requests with their respective DAAs/CFOs/MBChiefs.
2. Gary Falk – Develop talking points on NOC/NIC budget issues for the CIOs to use in their discussions with the DAAs/CFOs/MBChiefs.
3. Gary Falk/Fred Walton – Contact Netscape about supporting the Blackberry email system.
4. Becky Vasvary – Security budget discussion rescheduled for next meeting.

**Handouts:**

- ! Agenda for Meeting
- ! NOAA CIO Council Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2001
- ! OFA/ISMO Financial and Administrative Computing Division: Presentation to the CIO Council
- ! Due Diligence in NOAA's Transactions
- ! Fact Sheet: Support of Enterprise-wide Network Services at the NOAA Campus NOCs
- ! Fact Sheet: NOAA Enterprise Messaging System (NEMS)/Messaging Operations Center (MOC)
- ! Fact Sheet: NOAA Headquarters Network Operations Center
- ! Table: NIC functions transferred from HPCC funding (prior years) to Corporate funding as Operational Costs for FY02 (\$K)

## **Discussion:**

### **1. Introductory Remarks (Tom Pyke)**

Tom Pyke summarized the current budget status.

Tom announced that he would be acting as NOAA CIO until April 7, when Carl Staton would take over as the new NOAA CIO. This will allow time for the NWS to recruit Carl's replacement.

### **2. Due Diligence in NOAA's Transactions (Karen Dacres)**

Karen Dacres of NOAA/OGC made a presentation and answered questions on regulations issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) dealing with exercise of due diligence in transactions – including gratis data transactions. Transactions with countries (e.g. Cuba, Iraq, Libya) or individuals on the OFAC list of sanctioned countries and individuals are strictly prohibited, with infractions subject to fines up to \$1M. Activities like weather warnings are not exempted.

This was followed by a lengthy discussion and many questions. It was observed that there is some conflict between the US law and mandates of the WMO. There were questions about activities such as warnings to Cuba. On the latter point, Karen indicated that there would have to have been a waiver. Sylvia Graff averred that a key issue is whether the transaction could be used against the U.S., and indicated that giving hurricane warnings could not, while, say, providing charts of currents could.

Tom Pyke asked if this only applies to bilateral exchanges and asked explicitly about Web dissemination and broadcasts. Karen responded that there is interdiction software that allows preliminary screening, and that the OFAC regulations do not distinguish between Web sites and other exchanges. Transactions to the public *are* covered.

Tom questioned the breadth of that interpretation, and Karen responded that "if it's archival and there is no specific additional service we are doing, and the recipient could get [the information] from other services, then it is not prohibited unless it is to those three countries" (Cuba, Libya, Iraq).

On the interaction between OFAC and FOIA, Karen indicated that under Attorney General Ashcroft's interpretation discretionary authority can be used to withhold. Thus, if in fact information can be lawfully withheld – for example because more harm is likely from disclosure than from withholding – then discretion to withhold can be exercised *without* a prior showing of foreseeable harm. Some sections for exceptions that could be asserted are 552(b)(5) (agency internal documents) or 552(b)(2) (internal practices of the agency). So, under the new interpretation, if the agency withholds, it need not make an initial showing of foreseeable harm,

and the burden then falls on the FOIA requester to show how obtaining the requested information will further the requester's objectives.

Again Tom made the point that Scott (Gudes) has indicated that he is inclined to minimize the restrictions in the interest of fulfilling NOAA's mission, and said that had been factored into the NOAA instructions. Karen said we would be receiving guidance from Craig O'Connor so that guidance would be uniform across the line offices. Carl asked about interdiction software and Karen said that would be a policy decision for the agency. Greg Bass asked if we need to screen for content in email, and noted that such screening is quite expensive. Sylvia said that the interdiction software looks at names, i.e. sender/requester, and not content.

Anyone with questions can reach Karen at 301-713-1337.

Sylvia distributed a handout, "Due Diligence in NOAA's Transactions" and sample interdiction software.

### **3. ITC Budget (Sarah Maloney)**

Sarah Maloney distributed a handout, "OFA/ISMO Financial and Administrative Computing Division: Presentation to the CIO Council." It covers activities, customers, staff, contracts, work distribution, funding sources, object class distribution (the bulk is contracts), and listed 2002 priorities. She indicated that OFA/ISMO is not anticipating any major cost increases at this time. It was pointed out that it is important to ensure that the Corrective Action Plan is up to date so that there is no new audit finding. Tom asked Sarah to work with Lisa Westerbeck to determine the best course of action on grants on the theory that it is being superceded by Federal E-gov initiative. Lillian Barnes handled the response on that. There is no conflict because NOAA's systems will feed into Federal Commons. Bottom line is that the same amount will come from corporate costs as last year.

### **4. Security Budget**

Becky Vasvary was sick; the discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

### **5. Funding of Activities at Regional NOC/NICs (Gary Falk)**

Gary Falk distributed two FACT Sheets, "Support of Enterprise-wide Network Services at the NOAA Campus NOCs" and "NOAA Headquarters Network Operations Center" and a table titled "NIC functions transferred from HPCC funding (prior years) to Corporate funding as Operational Costs for FY02." Gary underlined the amount of change in the Network Information Center (NIC) since 1994 and said that because the NIC is no longer research (initially funded through HPCC) and is operational, its funding should be put into the enterprise pot. In addition to network management support of local and regional needs, the NOCs also support functions that are necessary to NOAA's enterprise network capability (e.g. DNS, mirrored web services for critical systems).

Carl Staton asked when the cost of the NIC was last reviewed. Bill Turnbull said it has been treated as a special case since 1997. But since the mandate of HPCC is research, it should not be running an enterprise NIC.

In an aside, Hugh Johnson asked if there were any actual research proposals to HPCC. There were, from Seattle and Boulder. Gary said that though the NOC is on the edge of technology, it is not research but rather just solid good practice. He said OFA management is reviewing the corporate cost requests and there is a scheduled meeting of the corporate board, which might take place in early January. The CFOs and MB Chiefs will have to look at it. Another wrinkle is that it will be leaving OFA. It was recognized that this activity clearly has to be supported. DNS is a critical function essential to campus wide connectivity. The regions would be required to pick up over 50%. Bill Turnbull noted that Admiral Lautenbacher has emphasized integration. No one had a countervailing view.

Carl asked Gary to put together talking points for the DAAs and CFOs on the NOC/NIC budget issues.

There was some discussion of an exchange with Gartner Group in a meeting on November 28 on clustering as a way to provide fail-over service for NOAA's messaging system. It was noted that we have a modular standards-based system with the IPlanet architecture which holds up well in comparison with the Outlook or Notes, according to Gartner.

## **6. MOC/NEMS (Fred Walton)**

Fred Walton distributed a FACT Sheet titled "NOAA Enterprise Messaging System (NEMS)/Messaging Operations Center (MOC)." Fred said the budget is up about 200K and that the number of people is unchanged. The real changes are in the deferred purchases last year, calendar services. They are asking again. Also security. It's not good to run multiple services on a single server.

The meta-directory software would be \$95K. It is really a toolbox providing more administrator-friendly tools to develop certain applications, such as doing upgrades of messaging to the 5x (independent of calendaring) version. The tools will make it much easier to do migrations.

There was a discussion of Netscape Calendar vs. Steltor. There is a \$200K price difference for Steltor and there would have to be some consulting because Steltor is not plug-n-play. Consulting would be in the same order of magnitude as purchase, or maybe about \$100K. Fred noted that now that Netscape actually owns the IPlanet software, they have been much more attentive and provided better user support. Carl Staton said he doesn't feel we can continue down the path of delays more than another two or three months. He said if that occurs we should "take our lumps" with Steltor or whoever. Bob Kidwell suggested that we should not have multiple people interacting with Steltor because it doesn't help our negotiating position.

Tom noted that we will need a way for the Secretary – using Lotus Notes – to be able to talk with others.

Hugh Johnson asked about support for MS Active Directory. Gary said that would require at least two additional people and Fred agreed.

There was then further discussion of the NOC proposal and discussion of the dollars. Carl said it would have to be presented clearly and effectively to the MB Chiefs.

Tom closed by reminding everyone to take a look at ImmersaDesk 3D beginning Monday.